

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. DINGELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

UNDOING JOB-KILLING REGULATIONS

(Mr. PEARCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, many times, people ask me: Just what is it about regulations that kills jobs? That is what we are involved in this week is undoing some of those regulations. I will be introducing one today to unwind a regulation that the BLM recently put into place.

What happened is, over a year ago, for the first time in 40 years, we allowed Americans to export oil. We are diminishing the trade deficits—that is, we are making our economy stronger—by shipping to South American countries and to countries all over the world. It is good for American jobs. Then the BLM comes in and puts in its onshore oil and gas order No. 3 rule, which will make it more difficult for us to produce oil off of public lands. It simply shouldn't be there.

We are introducing legislation today that will reject that as a bureaucratic entanglement of job creation in the country. That is as simple as we could be. We look forward to the support of the Members of the House.

EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, this week in 1940, the first Social Security check was issued. Since then, it has been one of our Nation's most impactful and successful programs.

Social Security is based on a simple premise: if you work hard, you should live a dignified retirement. It has been a critical lifeline for America's seniors, tens of millions of whom were pulled out of poverty because of this program.

In order for Social Security to continue to fulfill its promise, Congress and the administration need to work together. I am concerned that the new administration may wish to dismantle Social Security as we know it. The President's choice for Budget Director has a long track record of calling for raises in the retirement age and of lowering Social Security benefit payouts. In 2011, when my Republican colleagues proposed cuts to Social Security, the nominee argued that the cuts were not rapid enough. This is unacceptable.

We cannot afford to weaken Social Security. We should expand and strengthen this program. We need to make Social Security more generous and increase the benefits so that today's and tomorrow's retirees get the dignified retirements that they have earned. This is also good for economic growth, higher wages, higher demand, higher economic growth, and opportunity.

THE ROBESONIAN

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of The Robesonian newspaper in Lumberton, North Carolina, and their exceptional public service during the massive floods caused by Hurricane Matthew.

Last October, Lumberton was inundated with rain. The water treatment plant was under 4 feet of water; Interstate 95 was shut down; hundreds of homes and businesses were destroyed. The devastation, which I witnessed firsthand, was unbelievable. The Robesonian's own offices were destroyed, and much of the staff suffered personal loss, slept in offices, went without showers; yet the newspaper continued to share vital information online and via social media.

Mr. Speaker, during this emergency, The Robesonian's website and social media were the only way many residents of Robeson County could access updated information on shelters and water distribution.

Thank you to the dedicated staff of The Robesonian for putting the community first and serving with distinc-

tion during the Hurricane Matthew floods.

MUSLIM AND REFUGEE BAN

(Mrs. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give voice to my constituents and their families whose worlds have been turned upside down following President Trump's executive order last Friday, which they feel is directed at Muslims. Since the order was signed, we have been flooded with calls, with messages; and no matter where I am in the district, people are scared and terrified.

I cannot convey to this House enough the feelings of individuals who have gone through a stringent vetting process, who hold green cards, who are official legal residents—in some cases, even citizens—who are afraid that someone is going to knock on their door at 3 a.m. and take and deport them from this country. They are real people.

The Detroit headlines are full today of stories of an Iraqi whose mother died, who had served with the military in Iraq, and was trying to bring his mother back. He is an American citizen. Another is a doctor whose wife is in Qatar and had taken her baby home—both here legally.

We all care about keeping this Nation safe. We also have to protect the fundamental pillars of our Constitution.

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, an amazing nonprofit service organization which is located in my congressional district, on its recent Diamond Anniversary Celebration of 85 years of service.

The Miami Lighthouse has served south Florida since 1931, offering essential programs and experiences for all of those who have visual impairments.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I understand the importance of the mission of the Miami Lighthouse: to provide vision rehabilitation, eye health services that promote independence, to collaborate with and train professionals, and to conduct research in related fields.

Mr. Speaker, organizations like the Miami Lighthouse form the backbone of our civil society.

Congratulations to my dear friend Virginia Jacko and all of the staff and many volunteers of the Miami Lighthouse as they continue their life-changing work into their 86th year.